Introduction of GAIL as marketing agent of ONGC

4729. DR. A.K PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce Gas Authority of India Limited as a marketing agent for the natural gas being sold by Oil & Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether introduction of intermediary is in line with the Government policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A. M.O.U. has been entered into between ONGC and Gail according to which some gas transportation and marketing assets of ONGC would be transferred to GAIL.

Decenteralisation of MCD

4730. DR. V.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the recommendation of the Sarkaria-Balakrishna committee Report regarding decentralisation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). No final view has been taken in the matter so far.

Shortage of Raw wax in Kerala

4731. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of raw wax in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for Increasing the quota of raw wax of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANANAD): (a) and (b). The indigenous production of paraffin wax and Slack Wax is not adeqate to meet the full demand, Paraffin wax is imported to supplement the indigenous availability to the extent possible.

Passport office, Mangalore

4732. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to establish full-fledged passport office at Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this office is likely to start functioing?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). A proposal to open new Passport Offices is under consideration. Their number, location and timing will depend on the available additional finacial and manpower resources.

[*Translation*]

Drug-Trafficking in Delhi

4733. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: